

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EAE-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

DPW-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

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O R 151826Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3122

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23729

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CITIZENS IN SVN

REF: PARIS 23216

1. QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE TOLD EMBOFF
SEPTEMBER 15 THAT QUAI HAD FINALLY RECEIVED A REPLY TO
THEIR QUERY TO FRENCH EMBASSY SAIGON ABOUT AMERICANS
RETAINED IN SVN. EMBASSY SAID THAT THE SITUATION HAD
GONE THROUGH THREE STAGES. DURING THE FIRST STAGE SOME
70 AMERICANS, ACCORDING TO FRENCH CALCULATIONS, WERE
CAUGHT IN SOUTH VIETNAM OF WHOM 30 TO 40 HAD BEEN ABLE
TO LEAVE ON UNHCR FLIGHTS TO VIENTIANE IN THE PERIOD END
OF MAY TO JULY. AMERICANS WHO WISHED, APPARENTLY WERE
ABLE TO DEPART WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. A NEW STAGE
STARTED WHEN THE FRENCH INAUGURATED THEIR FLIGHTS TO
BANGKOK ON AUGUST 12. FIFTEEN AMERICANS WERE ORIGINALLY
OR SUBSEQUENTLY PUT ON LISTS PROVIDED TO THE FRENCH
BY THE PRG, PRESUMABLY AMERICANS WHO HAD RECEIVED THEIR
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EXIT VISA. OF THOSE 15 ONLY 5 WERE ABLE TO DEPART; 3

ON AUGUST 12, ONE ON AUGUST 15 AND ONE ON SEPTEMBER 3.
THE FRENCH COULD ONLY SPECULATE WHY THE OTHER TEN HAD
NOT DEPARTED, BUT IT WAS, THEY THOUGHT, QUITE LIKELY
THAT DESPITE RECEIVING THE EXIT VISA, THEY HAD NOT
COMPLETED ALL THE OTHER FORMALITIES FOR DEPARTURE. THIS
HAD HAPPENED TO MANY FRENCH CITIZENS AS WELL.

2. A NEW STAGE WAS ENTERED INTO RECENTLY WHEN THEY
NOTED CERTAIN INDICATIONS OF A DESIRE TO RESTRAIN THE
DEPARTURE OF THE AMERICANS. BOLLE SAID EMBASSY SAIGON
DID NOT SPECIFY ANY OF THE INDICATIONS. EMBASSY SAID
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WAS FOLLOWING THIS QUESTION
MORE CLOSELY AND WE COULD PERHAPS GET MORE INFORMATION
FROM THE ICRC. AGAIN WITHOUT CITING PARTICULARS,
FRENCH EMBASSY SAID ICRC HAD CONCLUDED THAT THIS POLICY
WAS NOT AN INITIATIVE OF THE PRG BUT RATHER THE RESULT
OF A DIRECTIVE FROM HANOI. WHEN FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER
ASKED A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE ABOUT THE RETENTION OF AMERICANS, HE
WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS A "PROBLEM UNDER STUDY".
RUSH

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